

# WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE GREATER CORKTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR THE WORKER'S ROW HOUSE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

Archaeology in the Detroit neighborhood known as Corktown was initiated in support of the development of a house museum in the oldest existing residential structure in Corktown. The project represents collaboration between the Museum of Anthropology at Wayne State University and the Greater Corktown Development Corporation (GCDC). Archaeology students at Wayne State have conducted three field seasons and have undertaken historic document research and exhibit development.

The Corktown archaeological project is reinvigorating Wayne State's tradition of urban archaeological investigation. This project is important in Detroit archaeology because it focuses on a working class ethnic community. Excavations have revealed information about how Irish working class people lived in the city as early as the mid-nineteenth century – people who worked at the shipyards, lumber mills, factories, and foundries of Detroit. The project has received positive media attention in print, radio and television, and Wayne State and the GCDC have involved school children in the project. Corktown residents and local primary, secondary, and high school students have participated in fieldwork, and local school children have come to watch the excavations and visit the museum. The knowledge gained through this project enhances our understanding of Detroit's ethnic diversity and will support future interpretation of the row house structure.

